

## Recommended Considerations in Evaluating Pesticide Security

Though security needs may differ for every pesticide business, some of the fundamental security control points include:

### ● **Security Buildings, Manufacturing Facilities, Storage Areas, Surrounding Properties:**

A fundamental need is to prevent access to areas used to manufacture or store pesticides and other toxic chemicals. This can include basic fencing, lighting, and locks, to intrusion detection systems, cameras, and trained guards.

● **Securing Pesticide Application Equipment and Vehicles:** Prevent intruder access to equipment used in mixing, loading, and applying pesticides. Before operating pesticide application tools and vehicles, handlers must have proper authorization and identification.

● **Aerial Application Equipment:** Security awareness is particularly important for large-scale pesticide application equipment like aircraft and large trucks. The FBI has requested that aerial applicators be vigilant to any suspicious activity relative to the use, training in, or acquisition of dangerous chemicals or airborne application of same, including threats, unusual purchases, suspicious behavior by employees or customers, and unusual contacts with the public. Any suspicious circumstances or information should be reported to the FBI.

### ● **Protecting Confidential Information:**

Secure computer and communications systems to prevent theft or use of such information. Efforts may include contingency planning for power losses, effective monitoring of access ports, adherence to password and backup procedures, and other mechanisms to maintain access for authorized personnel only.

### ● **Designing Facilities and Equipment to Minimize Risk of Damage:**

Whether an intrusion to a computer by a hacker or a physical intrusion of your facility by a vandal or saboteur, it is important to take steps to minimize the extent of damage. For example, in order to prevent damage, the use of sturdy, reliable, and potentially blast-proof materials is essential in the construction of equipment used to transport and apply pesticides.

### ● **Developing Procedures and Policies that Support Security Needs:**

° Effective hiring and labor relations policies are important to obtain and retain good employees who will support and follow safety precautions. For example, the hiring process should ensure that pesticide handlers have all requisite training necessary to handle pesticides safely. Background checks of staff who have access to secure areas, particularly those areas where pesticides may be stored, are also necessary.

° Inventory management policies can help limit the amount of potentially hazardous pesticides stored on site, thereby reducing the risks of accidental or intentional release or theft.

## Developing Procedures and Policies that Support Security Needs (continued)

° Effective advance emergency response procedures can be critical, helping ensure that employees understand how to respond and whom to contact in case of an emergency. *Aside from accidents, such plans must also consider vandalism, bomb threats, and potential terrorist activity.*

● **Sale of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs).** Pesticides that are classified for restricted-use only are, by their nature, products that are highly toxic or have a high potential for harming the environment unless label directions are strictly followed. ***Pesticide dealers and distributors should ensure that retail sales of RUPs are made only to persons who are properly trained and certified and who present a valid, current certification card. Any suspicious purchases should be reported to authorities immediately.***

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Pesticides Branch  
Telephone: 913-551-7030

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land  
Stewardship - 515-281-8591

Kansas Department of Agriculture  
785-296-3786

Missouri Department of Agriculture  
573-751-5509

Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
402-471-2394

## For More Information

*Links to sites outside the U.S. EPA Web site are not an endorsement of the external site or its contents.*

Many of the tips listed in this fact sheet are described in more detail in the Chemical Safety Alert entitled, "A Chemical Accident Prevention: Site Security, published by EPA on February 2000 and available on the EPA Web site at:

[www.epa.gov/swercepp/p-small.htm#alerts](http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/p-small.htm#alerts).

For information on other Agency programs to promote facility security and readiness, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/>.

DOT has produced a separate advisory for transporters, available by contacting DOT at 202-366-6525.

For objective science-based information about a variety of pesticide-related subjects, including pesticide products, recognition and management of pesticide poisonings, toxicology, and environmental chemistry, contact the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN). NPTN, a toll-free hotline funded in part by EPA, lists state pesticide regulatory agencies and provides links to their Web sites. NPTN can be contacted at 1-800-858-7378, by e-mail at [nptn@ace.orst.edu](mailto:nptn@ace.orst.edu), or by visiting the Web at:

<http://ace.orst.edu/info/nptn/>.

"Be Aware for America" brochure, The Fertilizer Institute and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms at:

[www.tfi.org/Publications/Be%20Aware.asp](http://www.tfi.org/Publications/Be%20Aware.asp)

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

### If a breach of security or suspicious activity does occur...

timely cooperation with authorities is crucial. In addition to cooperation with your local police department, **the FBI requests that you expeditiously report any threats or suspicious behavior to your local FBI field office.**

### FBI Offices

**Kansas City, Missouri** (handles all of Kansas and the western district of Missouri)

Telephone: **816-512-8200**

**Omaha, Nebraska** (handles all of Iowa and Nebraska)

Telephone: **402-493-8688**

**St. Louis, Missouri** (handles eastern district of Missouri)

Telephone: **314-231-4324**

### EPA

**National Response Center - Oil and Chemical Spills**

Telephone: **1-800-424-8802**



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

November 2001

# Pesticide Alert

## Pesticide Safety and Site Security

**The Environmental Protection Agency is issuing this *Alert* to all pesticide industry organizations, facilities, and handlers as a precaution during this heightened state of security awareness. This *Alert* highlights some general security areas that companies may want to review to ensure that appropriate measures are being implemented.**

It is important that all pesticide establishments review this information and take appropriate steps to minimize risk. This document does not substitute for EPA's regulations, nor is it a regulation itself. It cannot and does not impose legally binding requirements on EPA or the regulated community.

An effective security program is critical to the health and safety of your business, facility, and community, and should cover the following elements:

- ° Buildings
- ° Storage Areas
- ° Vehicles
- ° Pesticide handlers
- ° Staff with access to pesticide storage areas
- ° Sale of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs)
- ° Manufacturing Facilities
- ° Application Equipment
- ° Confidential Information